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February 4, 1998

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear Josh:

As you are aware, the issue of cloning has come again into the public spotlight by the perhaps inevitable effort of an individual to clone human beings. This action and the publicity it has engendered has inspired calls for legislation regulating "cloning" by the Congress and the Administration. It is hoped that Congress would accept the caution of the National Bioethics Advisory Commission that any legislation be carefully written so as not to interfere with other important areas of scientific research.

The real danger of some bills that have already been proposed is that if they reach beyond the narrow illegalization of cloning human beings to inadvertently or intentionally limit important biomedical research.

To prevent this outcome, I am requesting your endorsement and that of other fellow Nobelists of the attached letter. If you are willing to co-sign, please complete and return the enclosed form as soon as possible but no later than Monday, February 9 by 12 noon Eastern time, to the American Society for Cell Biology.

Thank you very much for your immediate consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Berg, Ph.D.
Cahill Professor of Cancer Research
Director of the Beckman Center for
Molecular & Genetic Medicine
Stanford University
Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, 1980
Chair, ASCB Public Policy Committee

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